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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Christopher Gregory Malone, et al.

Serial No.: 09/932,529

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: Daughter-Card
Structural Support

Art Unit: 2827

Examiner: Tuan T. Dinh

Tel: (703) 306-5856

Office Action Mailed: Feb. 13, 2002

#3
response to restriction
J. Whit
3-6-02

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3), authorization is hereby granted to charge all required extension of time fees under 37 CFR §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case. Consideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed February 13, 2002, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following inventions: Embodiment I as exemplified in FIG. 2, Embodiment II as exemplified in FIG. 3, and Embodiment III as exemplified in FIG. 4.

FIG. 2 illustrates one embodiment of a daughter-card support after insertion of a daughter-card substrate (e.g., a PCB) into the daughter-card support, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a daughter-card support with a "spine and rib" style of architecture, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

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FIG. 4 illustrates a daughter-card support with a more preferred "circumferential" style of architecture, in accordance with another embodiment of the invention.

In response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the invention of Embodiment I as shown in FIG. 2, as recited in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20, subject to traverse. Non-elected claims 5, 6, 12, 17, and 18 are provisionally withdrawn from consideration. Claims 5 and 17 are provisionally withdrawn, since these claims read on the "spine and rib" embodiment of FIG. 3, and claims 6, 12, and 18 are provisionally withdrawn, since these claims read on the L-shaped brackets discussed with FIG. 3 and FIG. 4.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction requirement on the grounds that all three embodiments are drawn to one invention, i.e., a daughter-card structural support. Applicants also point out that claims 1-20, and FIGs. 2, 3, and 4 disclose invention embodiments that should all be classified in the same class and subclass of invention. Therefore, these embodiments should not be subject to restriction.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the same Examiner should examine all of the claims 1-20 in one patent application so as to maintain the efficiency of the Patent Office, and for the Examiner to utilize the same criteria for the examination of all the claims presented. Moreover, if this Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, additional divisional patent applications will be required, which will cause vastly increased expenditures for prosecution of the additional divisional patent applications, and cause vastly increased expenditures for the USPTO patent application fees and patent maintenance fees by the assignee. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at (408) 248-1958. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address previously indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Roe
USPTO Reg. No. 40,148

Dated: March 1, 2002

PTO/SB/97 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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March 1, 2002

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